

At least one dead in Los Angeles quake

LOS ANGELES (R) A strong earthquake shook Los Angeles and surrounding towns in the morning rush hour on Friday, killing at least one person, triggering rock slides and sending frightened people pouring into the streets. One woman died when she was struck by a falling steel beam in a stable at Santa Anita racetrack, another woman was cut by shattered glass and at least 14 people were treated for minor injuries. A 15-metre section of the wall of the Pasadena playhouse theatre, 12 kilometres east of Los Angeles city centre, collapsed. A main shopping street of suburban Pasadena -- Colorado Boulevard -- was littered with glass from hundreds of shattered shop windows. A furniture shop lost all its windows and people wandered in and out of the displays until police set up barriers. Rock slides were also reported in Pasadena, an affluent town with mansions belonging to some of the most prominent families of southern California. The earthquake, in an area of nine million people used to earth tremors, measured 6.0 on the Richter scale, strong enough to cause severe damage, the California Institute of Technology reported.

Volume 16 Number 4735

AMMAN SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1991, THU AL HIGEH 17, 1411

Saddam tells Shiites he'll forget the past

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein has told the Shiites of Karbala he is willing to forget their post-Gulf war rebellion. "Those who made mistakes, we consider their deeds as part of the past, and a new beginning will start," he told religious leaders from the holy city who visited him on Thursday evening, the Iraqi News Agency reported. Shiites in Karbala controlled the city for 10 days in March. They killed several senior government and Baath Party officials. Republican Guard units crushed the rebels after five days of fierce fighting which damaged the shrines of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, and his brother Abbas. The tomb of their father, Imam Ali, is in the nearby city of Najaf. It was also damaged during the Shiite uprising. President Saddam urged Karbala religious leaders to cooperate with government and party officials to speed up repairs so that Shiite pilgrims can visit the shrines again soon.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدير بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراوي

Government to seek Parliament vote in extraordinary session

Water, health, employment and economy are priorities

No change whatsoever in stand vis-a-vis Palestine issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Taher Masri has reaffirmed that his government will present its programme to and seek a vote of confidence from Parliament during the legislative body's extraordinary session which begins next month rather than wait for the lawmakers to begin their regular session in October.

Mr. Masri, in a meeting Thursday with the chief editors of Jordanian newspapers, said the decision to seek an early vote of confidence from Parliament was supported by his coalition cabinet.

"It is meaningless for any government to function for four or five months and implement its programmes without the confidence of Parliament," he said.

Despite the absence of Muslim Brotherhood members in the government, Mr. Masri said, his cabinet remained very much a national unity coalition. He disclosed that he had offered the same portfolios less the Ministry of Education to the Brotherhood, but the movement had "regret-

ably turned down the offer."

Mr. Masri noted that the Ministry of Education, which was headed by a Brotherhood member in the Badran government,

had sparked controversies and this was the reason he held back that portfolio from the movement.

Mr. Masri said his contacts and meetings with the Islamic bloc were not a tactic but were part of a sincere effort to convince the movement to take part in the government.

Mr. Masri said he pursued contacts with other blocs in the Lower House but not with all the 80 members of the House because it was impossible to contact such a number of deputies. The Muslim Brotherhood did not enter the government but the other blocs did, he noted.

The prime minister said that the government formation came at a time when the country is passing through special circumstances. "The change in government comes at a time when Jordan is passing through special

circumstances," said Mr. Masri, who held the external affairs portfolio in the Badran government.

He rejected suggestions that his government would primarily aim at securing a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem. "We will not sell out any Arab rights," he said. The prime minister referred to the letter of appointment given to him by His Majesty King Hussein and said: "Jordan's political line is firm and has never changed. My government will pursue the same policy as that of the previous government concerning the Palestinian question."

Mr. Masri described surprise at what he described as groundless rumours and accusations at the government. "We, as a country and a leadership, want an honourable solution to the Palestinian question in line with international legitimacy. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and as such the PLO will talk about the Palest-

ine question in any future talks on this issue."

The prime minister said that the letter of designation had made it clear that the new government would be devoted completely to dealing with internal issues, particularly at this stage, when we are paving the ground for political activities and the formation of political parties.

Three-fourths of the letter of designation are dedicated to internal issues," he noted. The government has already started examining draft laws on political parties and press and publications in preparation for presenting them to the parliament, he said.

Differences in opinion are a healthy phenomenon as long as they are presented within the democratic framework and within the accepted norms of dealing," he said.

Mr. Masri called on people to lessen their reliance on the government and to rely more on themselves.

(Continued on page 5)

Guns blaze in Algiers, Islamic leader threatens holy war

Benjedid quits as FLN chief

ALGIERS (R) — Guns blazed in the streets of Algiers Friday and a Muslim fundamentalist leader threatened to launch a holy war unless troops and tanks withdrew.

Militants threw up barricades to defy an army crackdown. Shooting broke out shortly before Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), told thousands of Friday prayer worshippers:

"If the army does not withdraw, we will be obliged to call a jihad (holy war)."

There was no word of casualties from the mid-morning gunfire or from shooting during the night, some of the heaviest since unrest began last month.

Troops and tanks tried to dis-

perse. "Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has resigned as chairman of the National Liberation Front (FLN) which has ruled the country since independence in 1962," the Algerian news agency APS said Friday.

APS quoted sources close to the party central committee as saying Mr. Benjedid would remain as an ordinary party member.

The committee on Friday ended an extended meeting which debated the violent clashes between security forces and Islamic fundamentalists.

courage crowds heading for mosques identified as likely flashpoints in a five-week-old confrontation between Algeria's secularist rulers and Islamic extremists.

But thousands of people streamed from narrow side streets, gathering outside Kouba mosque where Mr. Madani spoke.

An army helicopter clattered towards Bab Al Oued and nearby Bouzeraah suburbs, bastions of the FIS and which saw most of the overnight shooting.

(Continued on page 5)

Yugoslav planes blast rebel Slovenia, EC sends envoys

BELGRADE (Agencies) — The Yugoslav army said Friday it was halting a three-day military blitz against breakaway Slovenia after seizing all frontier posts between the republic and neighbouring countries.

Tanjug news agency announced an end to the offensive by federal forces after the northern republic's airports from the air and sent tanks and troops to control its last frontier post.

"The Yugoslav army says it gained control over all border crossings in Slovenia and therefore ceases further activities," Tanjug said.

There was no immediate reac-

tion from leaders in Slovenia. Earlier, the Slovenian president said he was ready to negotiate, but only after federal attacks stopped.

At least nine people have died in fighting since Slovenia and neighbouring Croatia declared Tuesday they were seceding from the troubled Balkan federation. The government responded to the independence declarations with a massive show of force, focusing on Slovenia's airports and border crossings.

Federal fighter-bombers blasted missiles at Slovenia's main Ljubljana airport. Two Austrian news photographers were

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir polishes 'Jordan is Palestine'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told a visiting British delegation Friday that Palestinians already have a state in Jordan, an aside said.

Linda Shimon, spokeswoman for the prime minister, confirmed a radio report that quoted Mr. Shamir as saying "Palestinians are the majority in Jordan and therefore they cannot claim they have no state or homeland."

Mr. Shamir's remarks to members of the British Labour Party, come as the United States is trying to start Middle East peace talks that could be decided the fate of the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The "Jordan is Palestine" theory has been used often by Israeli leaders to oppose a Palestinian state.

Mr. Shamir also quoted Mr.

Shamir as saying he still wants a dialogue with Arab states and feels "the start of negotiations will be an achievement in itself, even if in the beginning we won't see any results."

Meanwhile, the daily Hadashot quoted chief of staff Ehud Barak as warning of a future war.

"Israel stands before a period of decision and before it are two possibilities: either negotiations will begin or we will begin the countdown toward a comprehensive war," General Barak said at a meeting with an army unit.

Mr. Shamir was also quoted Friday as saying that only war could alter Syria's hostility to Israel. Asked in an interview with the daily Yedioth Ahronoth whether Israel could end Syria's hostility, Mr. Shamir responded:

"I don't believe that a country's policy can be changed due to an influence of outside elements,

unless these elements cause a drastic change in the balance of power in that country be going to war."

If somebody wants Israel to decide on taking Syria out of the circle of hostility, then maybe he is offering an action of war against Syria. I do not support it."

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens virtually ruled out Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday as a candidate for peace talks with Israel.

"I think Assad is really not in a category of people interested in making peace with Israel," Mr. Arens told a news conference. "He has pursued a consistently hostile policy."

Mr. Arens said Syria was adding to its stockpile of missiles and posed the kind of threat Israel experienced during the Gulf war from Iraqi Scud attacks.

Then the JKLF came and took him away, Yitzhaki said.



Prime Minister Taher Masri (second from left) meets with the chief editors of Jordanian newspapers' Mr. Mahmoud Al Kayed of Al Ra'i (third from left), Mr. Hashem Kreishat of Sawi Al Shaab, Dr. Musa Kellani of Al Dustour and Mr. George Hawatmeh of the Jordan Times (with back to the camera) in a meeting attended by Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki (left), Information Under-Secretary Trad Al Fayed (right) and Jordan News Agency Director-general Ali Safadi (Petra photo)

Strike paralyses occupied territories

JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied territories staged a general strike on Friday to protest at Israel's "annexation" of Arab Jerusalem 24 years ago.

Shops, factories and businesses closed and traffic stopped in most parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem.

Israel "annexed" Arab Jerusalem on June 28, 1967, less than a month after occupying it along with the West Bank and Gaza and part of the Golan Heights during the Middle East war.

Leaders of the 42-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule issued a leaflet saying: "We call upon our masses to consider this day a day of special struggle against the annexation and to confirm that Jerusalem is Arab and the capital of the Palestinian state."

In Gaza, three masked Palestinians set ablaze an Israeli bus near the village of Beir Hanoun, reporters said. The masked men ordered workers off the bus before setting it afire.

Palestinians in the occupied territories observe partial strikes every day and full strikes on days designated by uprising leaders.

Israel, eager to tighten its grip on Arab Jerusalem, has settled about 120,000 Jews in the "annexed" area and in the Jewish quarter of the Old City.

Activists took to the streets in a

(Continued on page 5)

Bush says Iraq violated ceasefire, U.S. options open

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush said Friday that Iraq had violated the Gulf war ceasefire by refusing to allow U.N. observers to inspect an Iraqi base where Washington believes nuclear materials are stored.

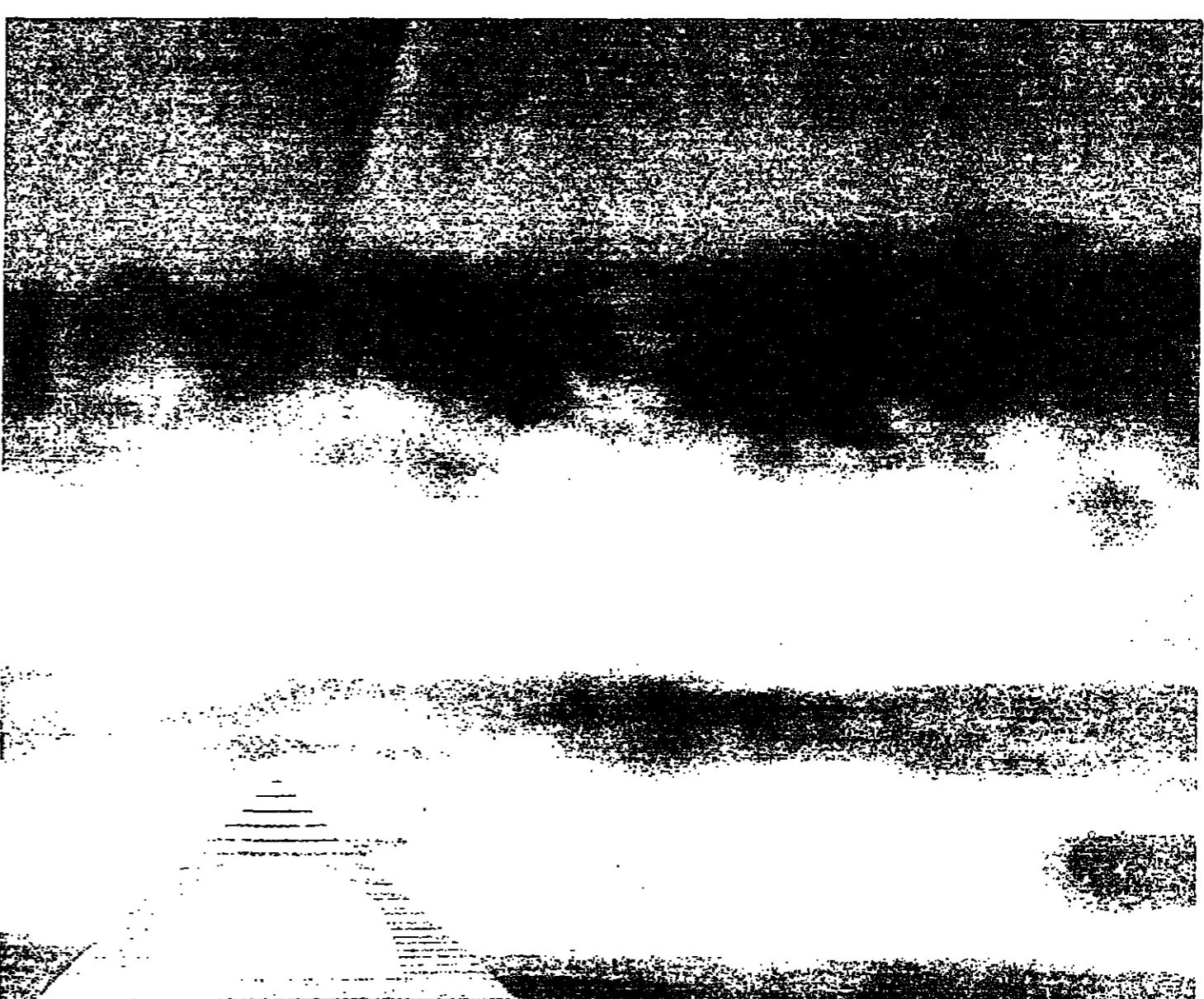
Asked whether Iraq's action had violated the ceasefire, Mr. Bush told reporters on air force one: "Yes, without a doubt. There's incontrovertible evidence to this effect — incontrovertible, unarguable."

The Iraqi News Agency said President Saddam was speaking at a meeting of the ruling Revolution Command Council on Friday night.

The president has ordered all responsible authorities to cooperate in full with the U.N. representatives and make their mission easy in line with commitments pledged by Iraq," the agency said.

this solemn agreement and to threaten people that are there

(Continued on page 5)



Middle East News

U.N. chief says not enough progress made for Cyprus talks

JUNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday that not enough progress had been made to hold a high-level conference on the question of Cyprus.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar also left open for the time being the issue of who would attend such a meeting.

At a closed-door briefing for Security Council members, he proposed that two of his top aides confer during July and August with all parties concerned to try to work out a set of ideas covering all points of an outline agreement.

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots since 1974, when troops from Turkey occupied the northern part of the island after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The United Nations has been trying for years to reunite the island under a federal system with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot provinces.

The Turkish Cypriots, who in 1983 proclaimed their own breakaway state recognised only by Ankara, at present control about 37 per cent of the territory.

Referring to rival proposals by the two sides for an international meeting on Cyprus, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said: "It is indispensable that the two sides are within agreement range before the beginning of such a meeting."

"I therefore propose to review the situation at the end of August with particular reference to whether the conditions are ripe to proceed with a high-level international meeting and to consult with the council accordingly."

He suggested that his special representative in Cyprus, Oscar Camillo, and a senior official at U.N. headquarters, Gustavo Peissel, should meanwhile "meet with all concerned to try to work out a set of ideas on each of the eight headings of the outline."

The Security Council was expected to issue a statement on

Friday endorsing the secretary-general's proposals.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is due to pay a private visit to Turkey in early July, said progress was urgently necessary on the issues of territorial adjustments and displaced persons.

This concerns the area that would come under Greek Cypriot administration, enabling a substantial number of displaced Greek Cypriots to return and the number of Greek Cypriots who would be able to live in area to be administered by the Turkish Cypriot community.

The U.N. chief, whose statement to the council was made available to reporters, said the council might wish to reflect on who would attend any high-level meeting and we would turn to it in due course for guidance.

Greece and Cyprus have proposed an international conference presided over by the secretary-general and attended by Greece, Turkey, Cyprus the two Cypriot communities and the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

The Turkish Cypriots strongly object to this, on grounds that the Cyprus government represents only the Greek Cypriots, who would therefore be doubly represented. Turkey has proposed instead quadrilateral talks involving the leaders of the two Cypriot communities, Turkey and Greece.

Cyprus has informed the U.N. secretary-general that Turkey must declare its position on two specific issues before the deadlocked talks can resume, government spokesman Akis Fantis said.

Mr. Fantis said this was the gist of his government's reply to a letter the U.N. chief sent this week to the governments of Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the breakaway state in north Cyprus.

Rauf Denktash, the president of the Turkish Cypriot state, said Wednesday that Mr. Perez de Cuellar in his letter had

accepted a Turkish proposal for talks among those four parties for a Cyprus settlement.

He was speaking to reporters on his return from Turkey where he conferred with President Turgut Ozal.

Peace talks between President George Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Mr. Denktash conducted under the personal aegis of Mr. Perez de Cuellar have been deadlocked since January 1990.

The planned visit to Turkey July 6-9 by Mr. Perez de Cuellar and U.S. President George Bush's plan to visit Greece and Turkey July 17-21 have fuelled speculation about an imminent breakthrough.

Mr. Fantis said that the Cyprus reply to Mr. Perez de Cuellar "stresses once more that what is important is the substance, and not the procedure."

"It stresses the need for Turkey to respond to the basic questions raised by the secretary-general so that the conditions for convening a conference on Cyprus can be met."

The two questions deal with the extent of the Turkish Cypriot territory in proposed bi-zonal Cyprus federation and the number of Greek Cypriot refugees who would be allowed to return to their homes in the Turkish occupied zone.

Mr. Denktash was quoted by the semi-official Turkish Anatolia news agency as saying that during his talks with Mr. Ozal "we have not discussed what to give and what to take, but evaluated on what basics we stand firm and from which we can make some sacrifices."

He identified the "basics" as being his government, and a guarantee that the two-zone nature of the proposed federal Cypriot republic could not be diluted.

Mr. Ozal had earlier proposed a four-party meeting. It was rejected by Cyprus and Greece because it would give equal status to the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

Mr. Fantis said this was the gist of his government's reply to a letter the U.N. chief sent this week to the governments of Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the breakaway state in north Cyprus.

Rauf Denktash, the president of the Turkish Cypriot state, said Wednesday that Mr. Perez de Cuellar in his letter had

Iran and S. Arabia to upgrade relations

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Saudi Arabia, forging closer ties after years of tension, will exchange ambassadors soon. Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Friday.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, quoting Mr. Velayati's remarks on his return to Tehran from visits to Saudi Arabia, Britain and Switzerland, did not say when the envoys would be appointed.

Iran and Saudi Arabia, Muslim rivals and the world's biggest oil exporters, resumed diplomatic relations in March after years of acrimony caused by Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Velayati held two rounds of talks with Saudi King Fahd and three meetings with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal last week, when he performed Haj in Mecca.

Some 117,000 Iranian pilgrims performed the pilgrimage to Mecca last week for the first time since 1987 when 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during an Iranian demonstration in the Holy City.

Western diplomats said the Iranians' behaviour made the Haj a showcase of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's new policy of seeking cooperation rather than confrontation with conservative Gulf Arab states.

An Iranian rally in Mecca on June 18 in which pilgrims shouted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" ended without incident.

Iran's Shi'ite Muslim leaders, following the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, insist that Muslims should raise political demands during Haj.

The conservative Saudi ban political activities during the pilgrimage, but allowed the Iranians to hold their rally away from other pilgrims.

Mr. Velayati said the way the Haj was conducted "suited the dignity of the Islamic revolution... the Saudis too fulfilled the commitments properly."

Iranian mobs sacked the Saudi embassy in Tehran after the 1987 deaths and Riyadh officials branded Iranian leaders blood-thirsty madmen. The Saudis severed ties in April 1988.

But the two countries were brought together by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year although Iran, which remained neutral in the crisis, criticised Saudi Arabia for inviting U.S. forces to the region.

Earlier, the halting of the Iran-Iraq war in which the Saudis gave Baghdad billions of dollars had eased tensions between Tehran and Riyadh.

The IRNA report, monitored in Nicosia, made no reference to an incident on Wednesday when Mr. Velayati cancelled a news conference after about 30 demonstrators attacked an Iranian embassy car in a Geneva hotel.

The Swiss police and Foreign Ministry said Mr. Velayati was not in the limousine which was pelted with eggs and had two windows smashed.

But several callers to news organisations claimed they were among the demonstrators who dragged Mr. Velayati from the car and beat him.

Shortly after the incident, the French Foreign Ministry said Mr. Velayati had postponed a visit to Paris due to start later that day.

Mr. Velayati was expected to sign an agreement for a final settlement of financial disputes with France dating back to the 1970s, paving the way for restoration of full diplomatic ties with France and a Paris visit by Rafsanjani, his first to the West since Iran's Islamic revolution.

China denies report of nuclear arms aid to Iran

BEIJING (AP) — China has called an American news report that it was helping Iran develop nuclear weapons "sheer fabrication."

Wednesday's Washington Post carried a commentary by syndicated columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novak that said Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani had sent about 20 nuclear technicians to Beijing for special training.

The columnists also referred to statements in Washington by Mohammad Mohaddessin, a top Iranian opposition leader, that Iran was determined to develop nuclear weapons and was looking to China for assistance.

"It is a totally groundless report and sheer fabrication," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin at a weekly briefing.

He repeated for the second straight week China's standard policy statement on nuclear proliferation: "The position China adheres to is that does not advocate, encourage nor practise nuclear proliferation or does it help other countries develop nuclear weapons.

However, Algeria used Chinese aid to build a nuclear reactor that experts say is too small to generate power economically and too large for research.

In the 1980s, China also secretly sold India at least 130 tonnes of "heavy water," used to make plutonium, a nuclear weapons component.

Mr. Mohaddessin, director of the international affairs section of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq of Iran, has said that in the past year, the Iranian government has allocated \$200 million to its nuclear weapons programme. He said Iran is prepared to pay for help, and thinks China is the most likely candidate because it wants hard currency.

Mr. Wu, however, said China supports arms control in the Middle East and will cooperate with other four major arms suppliers to the Middle East at a meeting in Paris next month on the issue.

China is the world's fifth largest weapons exporter, and the Middle East has been one of the largest markets for Chinese missiles.

Mr. Wu said Vice Foreign Minister Liu Haizhi would represent China at the meeting originally proposed by the United States.

"We are willing to explore with all the parties the basic principles of arms control in the Middle East so as to promote stability in the region with a lower level of armament," he said.

Iraqis can travel where they want

BAGHDAD (R) — The head of Iraq's passport office said on Friday that Iraqis were free to travel wherever they wanted without having to say where or why they were going.

Major-General Samir Hameed told the army newspaper Al Qadissiya in an interview that passports were readily available.

"The citizens will not be questioned about their reason for travelling or where they want to travel," he said.

For the first time, Iraqis would be able to have a multi-exit permit, valid for one year. Passports are valid for four years.

"It has become a very quick process that even within one hour you can have your passport," Gen. Hameed said.

Iraq lifted a ban on travel on May 15.

Health worries increasing over Kuwaiti oil fires

KUWAIT (R) — Despite official assurances, Kuwaiti scientists are growing increasingly worried that thick black smoke billowing from hundreds of burning oil wells could plague the emirate's health for decades.

A leading oil researcher said on Friday oil particles and noxious gases from the fires — set ablaze during the Gulf war — were already causing serious problems and might have grave long-term effects.

"We could see an increase in asthma, eye allergies, infections of the respiratory system and other serious diseases," Jassem Bishara of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research told the newspaper Al Aqsa.

A doctor at Kuwait's chest hospital said last week health experts had not entirely ruled out the possibility that the oil fires could cause cancer.

"We'll only really know in 20 years time," said cardiologist Mohammad Sharif.

The Kuwait Health Ministry says the fires do not pose a serious threat. But whenever the fumes blow over Kuwait City, cloaking it in semi-darkness, many residents complain of headaches and breathing problems.

The city has enjoyed reasonably clear weather since April because the wind blew the smoke out over the Gulf or south towards Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

But for the last week residents have choked on a swirling cocktail of sand and smoke because of a change in wind direction.

Pharmacies cannot stock masks and inhalers fast enough to keep up with demand.

Scientists have observed particles from the fires settling as far as Japan and Hawaii and expect them to reach the west coast of Canada and the United States within a few months.

"Nobody has concluded a full scientific study of the effects of the fires on health or the environment, but experts say the damage could take a generation to clear."

"Until research is done, we can only guess at the magnitude of the problem," Mr. Khurabiet said.

Hospitals receive a steady stream of asthmatics afraid of respiratory collapse.

More than a quarter of some 600 burning oil wells have been brought under control. The government hopes to have most mastered by next March.

But just 30 kilometres from Kuwait City the landscape is dotted with fires belching thick clouds of grey and black into the sky. Around the wells of the Al Ahmadi field, south of the city, the few surviving trees and plants are choking in soot.

The animal life of the desert, including lizards and small birds, has vanished.

"It is a catastrophe," said Ali Khurabiet of the Kuwait environment action team. "Oil may be seeping into the ground water in some areas, which means it is entering the food chain through irrigation of farmland."

Mr. Khurabiet said that the carbon monoxide emissions were almost certainly causing an increase in global warming, affecting weather patterns and ecosystems around the world.

Scientists have observed particles from the fires settling as far as Japan and Hawaii and expect them to reach the west coast of Canada and the United States within a few months.

"Nobody has concluded a full scientific study of the effects of the fires on health or the environment, but experts say the damage could take a generation to clear."

"Until research is done, we can only guess at the magnitude of the problem," Mr. Khurabiet said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

American editor investigated on Israeli complaint

TEL AVIV (AP) — Michael Lerner, an American magazine editor who was here to lead a conference on Middle East peace, is being investigated on a complaint of incitement, police said Friday. The charge was filed by Eli Karanam, whose son was killed last year, allegedly by Palestinian nationalists. Police said Mr. Karanam charged that Mr. Lerner urged Israeli soldiers to refuse to serve in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which could amount to inciting the soldiers to break the law. "If he said it, it could be incitement but... we have to understand the circumstances," a police spokesman said. "Just saying the sentence doesn't make it an offence. You have to know who he said it to." Mr. Lerner has reportedly left the country, following the conference earlier this week organised by his Tikkun magazine. Police said it was unlikely an incitement charge could lead to extradition, adding, "it's not such an offence." Mr. Karanam's son, Ronen, was one of two teenagers found stabbed to death last year in Arab Jerusalem. No suspects were arrested, but police said Palestinian nationalists were suspected. The slayings set off anti-Arab riots.

EC court annuls duties on Libyan, Saudi urea

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Court of Justice annulled on Thursday anti-dumping duties on urea imported from Saudi Arabia and Libya from the Al Jubail Fertiliser Company, EC officials said. The Luxembourg-based court said the EC's executive had not given Al Jubail an adequate right of reply against charges that it was dumping the fertilizer at cut price rates on the community market. It also said the commission had withheld important information on its findings from the company, which led to the imposition of definitive duties in 1989.

Switzerland allows arms export to Turkey

BERNE (R) — The Swiss government will allow exports of arms and military equipment to Turkey to start again after banning sales at the start of the Gulf war, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Swiss law prohibits the export of arms or military equipment to countries which are at war, facing the threat of conflict or in an area of dangerous tension. The spokesman said the government had decided exports, which were halted on Jan. 17, could continue because there were no indications Turkey was likely to become involved in a conflict. According to latest official figures, Switzerland exported arms and materials worth 26 million Swiss francs (\$17 million at current exchange rates) to Turkey in 1989.

Iran to draw up new anti-narcotics plan

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has begun a campaign to wipe out narcotics use in five years, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. During the anti-narcotics crackdown, more than 2,000 alleged traffickers have been hanged and over 50,000 addicts imprisoned since December 1988. President Hashemi Rafsanjani chaired a meeting this week at which anti-narcotics command centres throughout the country were commissioned to draft separate five-year programmes, IRNA reported. The government news agency said that 2,000 drug traffickers, 20,000 addicts and more than eight tonnes of narcotics were seized between March 21 and May 21.

U.N. begins relief air drops to Sudan

NAIROBI (AP) — The United Nations has begun airdropping food to thousands of Sudanese refugees who recently returned to their homeland from neighbouring Ethiopia. Paul Mitchell, a spokesman for the U.N. World Food Programme in Rome, said a total of 500 tonnes of food would be dropped, enough to feed an estimated 110,000 refugees for two weeks. The operation was to begin Tuesday, but was postponed a day due to mechanical problems in the aircraft. The food is being flown from Lokichokio in northern Kenya to Nasir, a Sudanese town near the Ethiopian border where most of the refugees have gathered. Mr. Mitchell said the onset of the rainy season has turned the area into a swamp, inaccessible by road and lacking airstrips where large airplanes can land. Therefore, most of the food must be dropped by air. The food, mostly grains, was donated by two U.S.-based relief organisations, World Vision and Catholic Relief Services.

Philippines expels Iraqi national

MANILA (R) — The Philippines expelled Friday an Iraqi national suspected of involvement in a failed bomb attack on a U.S. government library in Manila last January. Saad Kadhim, 32, was flown to Jordan from where he will be taken by land to Iraq, a Manila airport official said. Mr. Kadhim, who came to Manila as a tourist, was wounded on Jan. 19 when a bomb which police said he tried to plant near the Thomas Jefferson Library prematurely exploded. Police had said the attempt was in retaliation for U.S. bombing of Iraq during the Gulf war. Mr. Kadhim was the fourth Iraqi to be deported in connection with the incident. Manila earlier expelled an Iraqi consul and two Iraqi brothers. Mr. Kadhim had been held in custody at a police station since he was arrested after the bombing and had been kept away from the press until his deportation Friday.

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1991 3



BISHOP, STUDENTS AWARDED: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and Princess Aaliya Al Faisal attended a ceremony for the graduation of students from the Bishop School



for boys and the Ahliya School for girls and distributed certificates to the graduates. At the ceremony, held at the Palace of Culture, the Prince and Princess also distributed awards to those excelling



in their courses. Prince Faisal later presented Bishop Elia Khouri with the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order, which was conferred on him by His Majesty King Hussein.

EC to grant Jordan \$130m aid for development projects

BRUSSELS (J.T.) — Jordan will get nearly \$130 million in aid from the European Community (EC) countries between 1992 and 1994 to help it carry out development projects and public services schemes, according to an agreement signed by the two sides in Brussels Thursday.

Jordan's ambassador to the EC countries, Talal Al Hassan, said in a statement that the aid would be forthcoming under the fourth financial and technical protocol. The funds and technical assistance would mainly benefit water and irrigation, tourism, agriculture, environment, exports and industry as well as science and technology sectors.

Mr. Al Hassan, who signed the protocol for Jordan, said that one

third of the sum would be offered as a grant while the rest would come in the form of soft loan, through the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Mr. Al Hassan paid tribute to the EC countries, which, he said, had provided Jordan with assistance to help it overcome the adverse consequences of the Gulf Crisis.

The three previous protocols between Jordan and the EC had provided for hundreds of millions of dollars, in grants and soft loans, that enabled Jordan to carry out numerous schemes.

Last February, the EC and Jordan signed an aid agreement totalling around \$210 million. The aid agreement followed an EC assessment of Jordan as one

of the frontline states most affected by the Gulf crisis and particularly by the economic embargo on Iraq, according to an EC statement issued at the time.

It noted that the EC was concerned that the Jordanian economy, already burdened by foreign debts of \$8 billion, had suffered seriously since August 1990. The statement said that the loss, by Jordan, of the Iraqi market, the possible ending of financial aid from other countries, the rapid return of more than 200,000 expatriates from Kuwait, the loss of \$550 million in revenues from the tourist industry and the need to turn to the international market for oil supplies were areas of particular concern.

The report also said that the committee was expected to submit a report on its findings to the Cabinet on Tuesday. Mr. Suleiman, however, Friday told the Jordan Times that everything

Ministerial committee to work towards ending martial law

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special ministerial committee has been formed by the government to work towards ending martial law in Jordan, which has been in effect since 1967, according to a report in the local press Friday.

The report in Al Ra'a said that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suleiman would chair the committee, which was set up by the Council of Ministers on Thursday, the committee comprises the ministers of higher education, finance, municipal and rural affairs, interior and justice.

The report also said that the committee was expected to submit a report on its findings to the Cabinet on Tuesday. Mr. Suleiman, however, Friday told the Jordan Times that everything

depended on the nature of the proceedings and that the work could take longer than expected.

He said that decisions by the Economic Security Committee, along with all aspects related to martial law, would have to be scrutinised with the help of judicial authorities before a report can be prepared.

According to the report, the committee was expected to begin work immediately.

The report also said that the Council of Ministers had formed a legal committee, chaired by Minister of Justice Taiseer Kanaan, to deal with legal issues pertaining to government business.

The previous government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran pledged before Parliament to

scrapping martial law and took several steps towards achieving that goal.

Mr. Badran froze the martial law in December 1989 and pledged in a government statement before Parliament that his government would work gradually towards abolishing it. He also pledged to pursue democratic changes and fight economic crimes and corruption.

Mr. Badran, who took office in December 1989, said his government would set up a constitutional court and amend legislation to speed up the process of lifting martial law.

In accordance with its decisions, the government later announced that it was limiting the jurisdiction of military courts and granting more powers to civilian courts.

Asylum-seeking Iranians sit-in

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Asylum-seeking Iranians stranded in Jordan have launched what they call an indefinite sit-in to support their case at a United Nations agency, which, in turn, is pleading helplessness until the governments of potential shelters for the refugees respond positively to its representation.

"We are here for the second day running today (Friday) and we do not intend to call off the sit-in until we get definite answers," said Amir Hamedani, a spokesman for the Iranians squatting outside the offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Shmeisani.

The sit-in is the second staged by the Iranians, who apparently believe that increased pressure on UNHCR would produce quick action to resolve their problem.

But, Carl Fonseth, head of the UNHCR mission here, argues that "we are unable to do anything until the concerned governments respond

positively to our request for asylum for these people."

However, Mr. Hamedani and others among the 60-strong Iranian refugee community in Jordan maintained that their first sit-in, staged two weeks ago, had resulted in Swedish government acceptance of 27 Iranians if only because their protest had brought them in pressure on UNHCR.

Mr. Fonseth told the Jordan Times that UNHCR was in contact with the concerned governments and hoped to hear from them "very soon." But he could not offer any specific deadline for a UNHCR reply to the asylum-seekers.

The refugees indicated they were in no mood to abandon their action in support of their demands.

"We have been given promises and promised for months and nothing has happened," said Reza Rezai, another refugee spokesman, who arrived in Jordan eight months ago. "We would like our voices to be heard and to see action taken to address our plight."

added Mr. Rezai, 25, from the Iranian town of Tabriz.

The refugees, who say they had been politically active in various Iranian dissident movements based in Iraq until their first sit-in, staged two weeks ago, had resulted in Swedish government acceptance of 27 Iranians if only because their protest had brought them in pressure on UNHCR.

"We cannot return to our country since we will be persecuted there by the regime because of our political activities," said Mr. Hamedani, who was born in a town in central Iran. "We are now fed up with politics and would like to lead normal lives as anyone."

Many of those staging the sit-in said they were among the 27 already accepted by Sweden, but they had joined the protest action in a sign of solidarity with those who would be left behind.

Mr. Hamedani, who said he arrived in Jordan from Iraq in January, showed a document which said his request for asylum had been accepted by Canada in April 1990. "I would like to know why UNHCR has not sent me to Canada yet," he said.

According to Mr. Rezai and Mr. Hamedani, two of their compatriots stranded in Jordan tried to get into Israel across the demarcation line because of frustration over being stuck here with no definite signs of asylum anywhere. "We think they were shot dead by the Israelis," Mr. Hamedani said and gave the names of the two.

No security official was immediately available to confirm or deny the "infiltration attempt," which Mr. Rezai said took place in January.

Three others managed to get through to Syria and now they are there under the care of UNHCR," Mr. Hamedani added.

"Our plight has gone unnoticed for long," he said. "This protest sit-in will continue until our problem is addressed."

"Everyone of the Iranians here in Jordan is part of the sit-in action," he said pointing to new arrivals in two and three at the UNHCR office at noon Friday. "Others are on their way from Andalus on foot since none of us has any money to pay for the bus."

Police foil major drug trafficking operation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Border police, backed by police helicopters, foiled a major drug trafficking operation and seized 800 kilogrammes of hashish in arresting the smugglers.

A statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) said that the smugglers were spotted trying to bring into the country a haul of hashish from the northern desert.

PSD Director General Fadel Ali Fuheid said his units are trying to combat drug trafficking using all means and facilities at their disposal.

Furthermore, Mr. Fuheid noted in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan was not a drug producing or consuming country.

The number of drug addicts in Jordan is negligible compared to other Arab and foreign countries, he said.

During a visit to the PSD Narcotics Division, coinciding with the International Day for Combating Drugs, Mr. Fuheid said that Jordan's central geographical location made it prone to drug trafficking. Traffickers, he said, use Jordanian territory to

smuggle drugs to other countries in the region. This places additional burden on Jordan which tries to protect the Jordanian society from this danger and to contribute to the international efforts to curb drug trafficking operations. Mr. Fuheid said.

Between 1981 and 1990 the PSD dealt with 794 drug trafficking cases in which 2,191 persons from Jordan and other countries were involved.

During 1990, a total of 135 cases were discovered and 342 persons involved in drug trafficking were arrested, he said.

According to Mr. Fuheid, a total of 80 cases have been dealt with in 1991 and police have arrested 80 people involved in these cases.

The PSD, Mr. Fuheid said, was doing all it could to upgrade and modernise the work of its units by adopting modern technology in dealing with criminals and drug traffickers.

He said his department was working in close cooperation with sister departments in neighbouring Arab countries and international organisations.

Home News in Brief

Jordan, Romania discuss oil cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabet Al Taher Thursday received the Romanian Charge d'Affaires Petre Popescu. Mr. Taher and Mr. Popescu discussed ways of promoting and bolstering cooperation between Jordan and Romania in the field of oil exploration.

Minister inspects NAF

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Awni Al Bashir Thursday inspected work procedures at the National Aid Fund (NAF) where he met NAF Director General Farouq Badran. Dr. Bashir got acquainted to the services the fund provides for needy families in the Kingdom.

Workshop for charities to be held

KARAK (Petra) — A workshop for chairmen, presidents and secretaries of charitable societies in the Karak Governorate will be held here Monday. The workshop, which is organised by the Social Development Department in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Karak, aims at enhancing cooperation among the societies in the governorate.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoukini, Mohammad Al Jalouz and Rifqi Al Razzaz at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.

★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.

★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Annab at the Spanish Cultural Centre between June 17-30.

FILMS

★ German film entitled "Die Macht der Gefühle" (The Power of Feelings) — English-subtitled — at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.

★ French film entitled "Les Granges Brûlées" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

Jordan assails Israeli practices at ILO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has exposed Israel's immoral and inhuman repressive practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and deplored the continued practices of the Israeli authorities who appropriate lands from the legitimate Arab owners in order to settle Jewish immigrants to Palestine.

Dr. Khasawneh said, in reply to the Israeli minister's allegations that "many achievements took place in the occupied territories in the industrial and agricultural sectors," that the Israeli minister was attempting to delude delegations members taking part in the meeting.

occupation and the settlement policies.

Dr. Khasawneh, who headed the Jordanian delegation following the labour minister's return to Amman from Geneva, said that he had countered allegations by the Israeli occupation policies.

Dr. Khasawneh said, in reply to the Israeli minister's allegations that "many achievements took place in the occupied territories in the industrial and agricultural sectors," that the Israeli minister was attempting to delude delegations members taking part in the meeting.

"The main problems Arabs living under occupation face are caused by Israel's occupation of their land and the occupation forces' repressive and arbitrary practices reported by the ILO's director general, fact-finding missions and the United Nations Organisation," he said.

Dr. Khasawneh called the Jordanian delegation had played a key role in aborting a proposal by the Kuwaiti delegation calling for condemning Iraq, asking it to pay reparations for Kuwait government institutions, employers and employees and suspending its membership in the ILO.

He said Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dugmeh played a major role in blocking the adoption of this proposal.

Jordan joins in battle to inform, help diabetics

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with other nations of the world Thursday observed the international day for combating diabetes at a special meeting chaired by Health Minister Mamduh Al Abbadi in Amman.

"There is an urgent need to boost health education in Jordan enable people to deal with and to protect themselves from diabetes," said the minister in an opening address at the meeting.

Dr. Abbadi called on the concerned authorities to work out a national programme, involving all health sectors, to help protect Jordanians from this disease. Everything possible should be done to fight it, he said.

According to Dr. Abbadi, nearly 50 million people in the world suffer from diabetic conditions.

Furthermore, the number is constantly rising as a result of changes in the living style.

He said that diabetes was a hereditary disease but could be contracted as a result of environmental conditions and food.

dan, he said, was in need of special units to deal with this disease, at the national level.

The meeting, held at Al Bashir Hospital, was also addressed by Dr. Aref Al Bataineh, director of the Royal Medical Services, who backed the minister's call for creating specialised medical units to oversee the treatment of diabetic patients.

The units would also take charge of a programme designed to spread nutrition awareness among the public.

Husamuddin Mismar, president of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association, Dr. Ishaq Maraqi, president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) and Dr. Mohammad Al Zahiri, president of the Jordanian Society for the Care of the Diabetic Patients, delivered speeches at the meeting.

The speakers focused attention on the need for cooperation among health authorities, to make available treatment facilities and medicine for the patients.

Jordan reelected UNCHS member

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has been elected to a second term as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, according to Mr. Yousef Hiyat, director general of the Housing Corporation.

The second term will run for four years, beginning in 1992, Mr. Hiyat said.

Jordan was elected to the commission by the General Assembly of the nations which are members of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS).

The commission is the governing body of the UNCHS and meets annually to discuss issues related to world population problems, shelter and community services, construction and infrastructure and information.

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT
TOP INSTRUCTORS
AT THE YWCA SECRETARIAL SCHOOL

TOP THE FOLLOWING COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

1. SHORTHAND
2. COMMERCE
3. OFFICE PRACTICE (Secretarial Duties)
4. BUSINESS LETTERS
5. ENGLISH LANGUAGE
6. BOOK - KEEPING

INTERESTED APPLICANTS SHOULD :-

1. BE a graduate with a B.A. degree or its equivalence.
2. HAVE 2 years experience.
3. BE a Jordanian citizen.

Applications should be submitted to the YWCA center, Jabal Amman, 3rd circle, between June 29, 1991 - July 10, 1991.

For more information please contact the YWCA Office Tel: 06-54752 or 06-5702.

Two scenes from the play "The Wedding of the Weddings" that sets off the two-week theatre festival in Amman (file photos)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
صادر عن جريدة الأردنية المستقلة للطباعة والتوزيع في الأردن والخارج

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Right of exchange

IN WELCOMING newspaper editors who visited with him Thursday evening, the prime minister said he was happy to see old friends whom he had dealt with as foreign minister deputy and private citizen for many years. Mr. Masri not only wanted to answer any questions they had concerning the new government; He also wanted to hear their opinions on what was going on.

"Journalists generally like to ask questions more than they do volunteering opinions," one editor said. "But if you really want to know what we think, here is some of our food for thought."

For over two hours, the prime minister and the journalists talked openly and frankly to each other. Mr. Masri reviewed at length the objective of his government, its make-up and the circumstances surrounding its formation. He was as honest, open and forthcoming as he had ever been. The editors reciprocated with great interest and warmth. Besides being able to slant coverage of news closer towards their convictions and opinions, whether on this government or otherwise, editorialising at will, they also wanted to express themselves personally and from close range. They went as far as time allowed.

It is no secret that the Jordanian press has generally been supportive of and enthusiastic about the appointment of Mr. Masri as prime minister and his choice of colleagues. They are credible, able and progressive. Their programmes, as outlined in His Majesty the King's letter of appointment and Mr. Masri's acceptance reply, epitomised and embodied Jordan's hopes and aspirations. Furthermore their decision to submit to parliament for a vote of confidence in less than four weeks, even though they did not have to for a few more months, added to the journalists' confidence and trust in the new team.

But, characteristically enough, the editors did not stop at that, they went on to expound on what they thought were the reasons for the negative reaction the Masri cabinet received from certain political salons in Amman and sceptics on the streets.

There was a consensus amongst them that only those who are blinkered by factionalism and tribalism could not give the new prime minister and the ministers the benefit of the doubt. Only the opportunists did not wish to give the chance to the new blood to prove its worth. And that only the reactionary forces withheld support from the forward looking, progressive cabinet that was named basically to implement reforms and speed up the country's development process.

Many citizens have been apathetic about the change, the prime minister was further told. But that was also the case with many previous governments, and something had to be done to convince Jordanians of the value of partnership with the executive branch and local authorities wherever they may be. Restoring public confidence in the ability of governments to lead and to come clean was no small feat, everybody now agrees, even though the most important issue remains how this particular cabinet plays its cards with the disenchanted, disinterested citizen and the public at large.

The Thursday exchange did not end in the prime minister and newspaper editors sealing agreement over every issue of mutual concern. On the contrary, the premier made some interesting and critical comments on Jordanian newspapers, and the journalists warned him to brace for accountability and criticism whenever the occasion arose. Time will tell how our press will interact with this government from this point on. Democracy, however, is at its best when it is a two-way street.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Friday warned the public against Israel's attempts to strike against the Jordanian national unity. It is no secret that the Israeli aim at disrupting such unity through harmful rumours and false reports, said the daily in an editorial. Statements by Foreign Minister David Levy in Spain about plans to get rid of the Islamic movement in Jordan were just one example of Israel's constant efforts to undermine the national unity of this country, said the paper. All the movements and political groups in the Kingdom are clearly directing their activities against the Israeli aggressors, and it is not strange for an Israeli minister to try to cause rifts among these movements in order to weaken the Jordanian national front, said the paper. Furthermore, the leadership in Jordan is known to be firm in all matters related to the common enemy and national commitments; and is bound to help deal with the Israeli attempts to tamper with the country's national position. The paper said cohesion among the people of Jordan and its various groups and political orientations can foil Israel's evil designs and preserve Jordan as a bastion of democracy and a strong fortress in the face of the common enemy.

Al Dastour tackled the undercover and secret operations of the Israeli military against the defenceless Palestinian population. Latest reports from the occupied territories confirm that the Israeli authorities have killed 47 innocent Palestinian youths through such undercover operations and committed a series of other atrocities since the start of the intifada, the paper noted. These atrocities and murders in cold blood which continue unabated are being committed at a time when the western nations raise the human rights slogans and talk about democracy and the rights of all peoples to freedom, the paper noted. It said the new massacres committed by the new Nazis in the occupied Palestinian land, constitute a continuation of those massacres committed in Deir Yassin and other areas of Palestine. The paper said that these crimes against Palestinians present a clear vindication to the Palestinian intifada which had been earlier accused by the Israelis of murdering Palestinians under the pretext of being collaborators with the enemy. The paper expressed deep pain and distress over the victims of Israel's criminal actions, and called on the intifada leaders to remain vigilant, and on the Palestinians to unify their ranks in the face of this new onslaught.

Step by step in Gaza

By Katia Sabet

GAZA STRIP — A vast camp some 40 kilometres long and 8 kilometres wide, surrounded by barbed wire and patrolled day and night by the military: this is the Gaza Strip. Its 650,000-700,000 inhabitants are crowded into seven refugee camps and two towns — Rafah and Gaza — and it has a population density of 4,200 people per square mile, compared with 400 for Palestinians on the West Bank. It is small wonder that in 1987 the poverty and frustration of the youth of the teeming towns and refugee camps, set up in 1948, exploded in the *intifada* — "the war of the stones."

Variously described as a pressure cooker or a time bomb, Gaza was the cradle of the 4-year-old uprising against the Israeli occupiers. Any visitor to the area can sense the tension that permeates the crowded, dusty alleys where no trees grow and ragged children scamper.

As he slowly walks along the ugly, cinder-block lined streets of Gaza City, where walls are covered in graffiti and pockmarked by bullets, Freih Abu Meddein is stopped every few yards. People come up to him, he listens attentively to their anxious questions and quietly gives advice.

Lawyer Abu Meddein, 44, is known to all in Gaza. Now chairman of the Gaza Bar Association, he has devoted recent years of his life to the Palestinian cause, defending compatriots and drawing on his legal expertise to argue the case of his people. Abu Meddein is one of a new generation of moderate and pragmatic Palestinian leaders "from inside," who is respected both by the "exiled authorities" (the Tunis-based leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation — PLO), as well as ordinary Palestinians living under occupation. Abu Meddein recently spoke of prospects for peace.

"The Palestinian-Israeli peace process is a slow one and it will remain slow. The only positive developments until now are the declarations that have been made about Israeli settlements in the occupied territories," he said, referring to widespread, and particularly American, criticism of Israel's policy to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"Peace talks could go on for years," added the lawyer, "and they will become more and more difficult if this colonisation does not stop." This is not only a question of principle, as some may think, it is also a human problem, he noted. "New settlements may not be a major concern in Gaza since there are only 2,000 or 2,500 settlers here who constitute sort of a little cushion between Israel and Egypt. The real problem is in the West Bank, where some settlements are fast growing into real towns. The settlements around Jerusalem are an added complication when it comes to the peace process. The more settlers there are, the smaller the chances are for an agreement. There are now some 120,000 to 130,000 Jewish settlers — not to mention the fact that I would imagine 10 to 15 per cent of the two million Soviet Jews who are expected to arrive in Israel will also settle in the occupied territories."

Yet Abu Meddein believes the settlement question must not get in the way of the peace process. "We must not lose time. We have to bring the various sides to the negotiating table, without pre-conditions, without hesitation. That is when the world will be able to judge."

"Time is running out," he added, with a sense of urgency. "We have missed several opportunities in the past. If we had listened to (the late Egyptian president) Sadat, for example, there would be a Palestinian nation today. The current situation is perhaps our last chance to achieve a positive result in the Middle East."

That doesn't mean that Ashrafi looks at the current situation with unbridled optimism. "I met with Baker three times and I would say that the circumstances are not favourable to us. Israel is doing everything in its power to impede the beginning of the peace process. She has particularly tried to discourage and annoy the Palestinians, either politically, with the fait accompli of its settlements, or with actions that are illegal — administrative, detention, expulsions, jailing, and so on. All that is being done with the goal of provoking violent reactions and a general atmosphere of violence. In my opinion, we shouldn't react to Israeli provocation because then we are playing their game. On the contrary, we should continue on the path of peace initiatives."

But "psychological bridges" will have to be built to overcome the lack of trust between Israelis and Palestinians if the peace process is to be advanced, he be-

lieves. "There has been bloodshed on both sides. There is hatred, and that is why I think the peace talks will be long and drawn out," he added. "The Palestinians don't have much to offer the Israelis apart from peace in the entire region. As long as that is clear, something can come out of negotiations."

When hundreds of thousands of people live in overcrowded, festering conditions, with no prospects for the future and nothing to lose, they become dangerous, even if they have no weapons. "These days, the Israelis live in fear. They are anxious about their homes, their children, their lives. Nothing can change that except peace. There is nothing left but the negotiating table," said Abu Meddein. Commenting on the recent efforts by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to re-activate the peace process, Abu Meddein is clear: "Baker is a practical man who understands the situation perfectly. Where I do not agree with him is when he talks about two processes: Arab-Israeli peace and Palestinian-Israeli peace. Peace cannot be obtained along two lines. The Palestinians have to be there with the rest of the Arabs. Dealing with the Arabs alone, without the Palestinians, cannot lead to a real peace for the region."

The Palestinian lawyer, who met the U.S. secretary on two occasions during the latter's recent visits to the region, sees Baker as a secretive man: he is short on declarations and big on his desire for a step forward. "I feel sure he is prepared to tug at both sides until he gets them to sit at the same table. What comes after in terms of the content of the negotiations, what will be accepted and rejected, will come in stages, each in its own time."

Abu Meddein is also convinced that a certain amount of pressure from President George Bush could greatly speed up and amplify the peace process: "Think

about 1956 war," he said, referring to the joint French, British and Israeli attack in a response to President Nasser's nationalisation of Suez Canal. "We reminded Mr. Baker that in 1956 it took President Eisenhower 80 days to force France, Britain and Israel to withdraw from Egyptian territory. Bush is in the same position of power. He too, like Eisenhower, is a 'winner.' It is in his power to impose his will on Israel, if he

wants to."

Meanwhile, Abu Meddein admits that the Arab countries, including Egypt, still have a lot of work to do to reach greater understanding among themselves before the peace process can really move forward. "I have heard that there have been contacts 'at the highest levels' between Egypt and the PLO to clear up some of the 'misunderstandings' caused by the Gulf war. There is a vital need for agreement between the PLO and three countries of our region: Syria, Jordan and of course Egypt. This is what the PLO is now trying to rebuild."

Abu Meddein is equally aware that greater harmony is needed among Palestinians themselves and that a pragmatic solution may not be to the satisfaction of all. "It is very difficult to reach a final agreement that everyone will accept," he said. Democracy is hardly the main virtue of the Arab World and the middle East. The Third World as a whole has always suffered from the lack of cohesion and consensus, and the Palestinians are no exception. The Islamic factions do not agree with us and others will settle for nothing less than a sovereign state with fully defined borders. There is a chance of friction among the Palestinians, but in the end, the majority will decide."

Abu Meddein advocates a "step by step" approach that, he said, should start with the recognition of certain elementary and inalienable rights: "There are five million of us, between those in the region and those who live abroad. There are 65 indepen-

dent nations in the world with population smaller than ours, and we have been living for decades without rights, without a face. Instead of passports, we have stateless passes. In the occupied territories we are treated like fourth-rate citizens."

"We want basic rights, to which every human being is entitled: independence and self-determination. The rest will come, smoothly, little by little. It could be a confederation, an independent state... it is too early to talk about it. The main thing now is to get to the negotiating table, and we Palestinians are ready to be flexible too, and it is up to the West, Europe and the U.S. to exercise the necessary pressure to reach a solution agreeable to all."

The rights advocate also believes that Israeli intransigence and the difficulties that may arise if the Jewish leaders impose pre-conditions can be overcome, since the rights of the Palestinians have been confirmed by multitude of United Nations decisions. "We understand that Israel does not want the U.N. to take any part in the negotiations because it could lean in our favour. But rights are rights and resolutions are resolutions, regardless of whether the U.N. is there or not," he said.

He dismisses Israel's demands concerning the composition of a Palestinian delegation and its rejection of participants from the PLO. "You can't buy a problem by distancing individuals," he says.

Unlike many other Palestinian politicians involved in the current process, Abu Meddein remains resolutely optimistic: "I don't think anything can stop our efforts or activities. I get the feeling an irreversible process has been put into motion. In any case, optimism or pessimism is a question of emotions. What is vital here is to make progress and reach our goal." — World News Link.

The week in print

The new government in Jordan, its plans for the future and what people expect from its members to do in the coming stage acquired the lion's share in local newspapers coverage of local events in the media in the past week.

We have to admit that the new government of Prime Minister Taher Masri is in for a very complicated set of challenges, and bound to face ferocious battles in tackling the deteriorating economic conditions in Jordan and in fending off the external pressure being exerted on the Kingdom, said Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour.

The writer said the most ferocious battle this new government would have to face is perhaps the one against those trying to sow seeds of dissension and discord within the ranks of the Jordanian family. Several columnists presented their own views and made different demands of the new government, with Issa Shueibi voicing his belief that the new government would not be able to solve all issues overnight but at least it can do something related to political life in Jordan.

Writing in Sawt Al Shaab, Issa Shueibi said that the government is of course facing such issues as unemployment, inflation, pollution and others but can now embark on enacting laws related to political pluralism and press and publication which can help it in the future stage to tackle the other problems.

Another columnist in Al Dustour demanded that the government deal first with the question of soaring prices of almost every item in the market because they are of concern to all members of the Jordanian society. Unless the government directs its attention to internal issues, matters will be further complicated and the situation will deteriorate, said Mohammad Ibraheem Daoud.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab demanded that the government turn its prime attention to the tourism industry in implementing the directives of His Majesty King Hussein contained in the letter of designation to the government. Suliman Bedour said that the government ought to support the work of Royal Jordanian and transform it into a public share holding company to boost its operations and improve its services in the tourism field.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, Mahmoud Al Rimawi expressed his belief that the new government would adhere strictly to the implementation of the National Charter which provided an umbrella for all political and economic activity in Jordan. Rimawi said despite the various speculations about the new government's tendencies and future plans, and despite criticism directed against the cabinet, no one can doubt the fact that Taher Masri's main task will be to implement the King's directives in the letter and the spirit, and will give due concern to the question of handling the Arab-Israeli issue as well as internal questions.

Abdullah Al Qaq, a guest columnist in Al Dustour, demanded that the new government find ways for absorbing thousands of students returning from Kuwait into Jordanian universities. The writer said that in his letter to the new government, the King has asked that the returning expatriates be given due attention and care especially after being exposed to many sufferings in the Gulf.

Saleh Qallab criticised those who were not satisfied with the appointment of a man of Palestinian origin as prime minister in Jordan, and said that such dissatisfaction emanates from narrow mindedness, backwardness and lack of common sense.

Qallab cited the examples of the president of Argentina who is of Syrian origin, Philip Habib a noted American administration counsellor from Lebanon and others who assumed significant positions in other countries, and said that the Jordanian-Palestinian community forms a united family regardless of their backgrounds and their place of origin. The writer attacked those elements which, he said, were only clever in levelling accusations or criticising others without themselves offering constructive contribution to their country.

Columnist Hamadeh Farasneh who writes in Al Dustour said that the outgoing government succeeded in uniting the country's stand against the U.S.-Zionist aggression on Iraq but failed to introduce

the spirit of team work within the government departments. The writer said that certain centres of power continued under Prime Minister Mubarik Badran to have influence, and certain decisions were taken by certain officials without any collective consent.

What we need now, he said, is to work in the spirit of the National Charter and implement the King's directives which were in harmony with that charter.

Ahmed Dibban, who writes in Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that whenever a government is changed in Jordan new ministers resort to certain measures that most often harm the interests of the junior public servants and government officials. The writer said that there must be criteria to control such mechanisms to protect officials from arbitrary or rash decisions taken by new ministers.

His views are backed by Salameh Ekour who also writes for Sawt Al Shaab. Whenever a minister or a director of a certain department realises that he is leaving his post soon, he tends to take a number of decisions which can only serve his own selfish interests like appointing his relatives in certain posts or passing a number of decisions which result in harmful consequences to a great number of people.

The writer suggested that the new ministers or heads of departments should rescind all such decisions and enact a set of regulations preventing such occurrences in the future so as to put an end to tampering with the state's institutions and national interests.

Tamer Al Udwan who writes for Al Dustour launched a bitter attack on those parliament members who, he said, have done nothing over the past two years except to act in a manner to improve their own image for future elections. Udwan said that most of the deputies had presented the electorate with a long list of actions which they said they would embark on, such as fighting corruption, but once they were elected their attention was directed elsewhere.

The writer said democracy requires the presence of new blood and any public official ought to submit a resume, subject to scrutiny, featuring his past political life and clearly stating the manner in which he had made his wealth before being allowed to assume office.

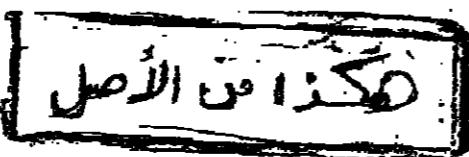
Mousa Kilani, chief editor of Al Dustour demanded from the government to enact laws allowing members of the Armed Forces and Public Security to vote in general elections. The writer said that soldiers and policemen are only members of the public, and together with their families constitute some 27 per cent of the total volume of the Jordanian population. Merchants, businessmen, employees and others are all tax-payers and so, they are allowed to vote, but soldiers pay the heaviest tax, that of their lives, and so they deserve being counted within the Jordanian electorate, the writer stressed.

A columnist in Al Ra'i noted that every year Jordan's population increases by 140,000, amounting to the number of a whole district like the Karak Governorate. Writing under the name of "observer," the columnist noted that Jordanians would need extra amounts of water, nearly 1,200 million cubic metres annually by the end of the century should the population growth continue, but the country is unable to provide the 730 million cubic metres for the present population.

The writer said more people need more food, more facilities for life, education and social services which the country would find itself unable to provide. He called on families to adopt the birth spacing method to prevent population explosion.

Several columnists discussed the plight of Palestinians and Jordanians in Kuwait. Dr. Omran Abu Sebebi said that international organisations and human rights groups have condemned the inhuman treatment of non-Kuwaiti nationals and the sham trials they are exposed to in Kuwait.

Bader Abdul Haq, who writes for Al Ra'i, said that those Kuwaitis trying to their country at the start of the Iraqi occupation only to return and find a scapegoat for their own weaknesses and take revenge on the innocent people who had built the emirate over the past decades.



مكتبة الأصل

Government to seek early confidence vote

(Continued from page 1)

The social and economic imbalance is the outcome of the weak general structure," he said. "Most of our problems are administrative, and the press and media have a great role to play in educating people of their duties," Mr. Masri said.

Other issues which would receive priority on the government's agenda are water and health service problems, unemployment and the economy, he said.

The government will also direct special attention to totally eliminating martial law, he said.

Mr. Masri said Jordan is still passing through a difficult economic time given the fact that Arab aid has been discontinued and expatriate remittances have dwindled.

"Reviving the economy is not an easy task at all," he said.

The large number of university and community college graduates and the hundreds of thousands of Jordanians returning from the Gulf are contributing to the difficult economic and social situation, he said.

"We have no major, clear-cut solutions to address these problems," he said. "However, there are attempts to attract foreign investments and these entails reviving the various sectors."

Mr. Masri called for social solidarity to avoid further rise in the poverty line, which reached a dangerous level.

He said there are proposals and ideas designed to attract foreign investments. Such proposals include easing the restrictions on investment in Jordan, introducing administrative reforms and easing bureaucracy, he said.

Unemployment, Mr. Masri said, is an endemic disease in the Third World and in Europe. It dates back to the 1970s, and will not be eradicated as long as social imbalance is there, he said. "It does not make any sense that 50,000 Jordanians are unemployed at a time when we have 200,000 non-Jordanian workers," he said.

Repairing the imbalance warrants an educational approach and an integrated plan, which should not be the responsibility of the government alone, he said.

Mr. Masri noted that these problems can only be solved through intensified efforts of both the public and the private sectors.

However, the government has long and short term plans for overcoming the unemployment problem, he said.

Mr. Masri said he could not discuss the issue of developing the armed forces, "because the army knows its situation better." However, he noted, there are political guidelines which would be finalised in due course.

The prime minister said Jordan was adhering to United Nations Security Council resolutions and that it had obtained a permission from the sanctions committee to export foodstuffs to Iraq and to import oil from Iraq. Inspection of vessels heading for Jordan, the prime minister said, is now much less than before, "thanks to our contacts with the countries concerned."

Mr. Masri said Jordan's position demands that it maintain good relations with the Arab neighbours. He noted that Jordan has lived through the Gulf crisis and "came out of it with its head high."

Jordan's position towards the Gulf crisis will be recorded, in terms of its adherence to the principles and its democratic march," he said. "We are fully convinced that democracy is the feature of the age and that it will be sweeping the region sooner or later."

"We pray to God that Jordan's democratic experiment will be a model for democracy in the region," he said.

Jordan's decision to sever administrative and legal ties with

the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mr. Masri said, "is irrevocable and will not be reconsidered at all."

This is a closed file," he said.

Jordan and the PLO are in full agreement on the composition of the delegation to an international peace conference, he said.

"We will take the right decision at the right time on this subject," he said.

"We will not differ with the PLO over the composition of the delegation once Israel accepts to abide by international legitimacy and accept the land-for-peace principle," he said.

Mr. Masri said there were no new developments on the American side. "The peace process is still stalled because of Israel's intransigence, and its building of settlements in the occupied territories to create a new situation and a new reality on the ground," he said.

"Israel is bargaining to gain time and does not want to make peace. It aims at invalidating international legitimacy."

Nothing new has come up after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's last visit to the region, he said. "But we have been hearing tougher statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli officials," he said.

Yugoslav jets blast Slovenia

(Continued from page 1) jana, said there were no such attacks.

Witnesses said that federal planes bombed a column of cars near Maribor, most of them apparently Turks and Bulgarians waiting to cross into nearby Austria. But there was no independent confirmation.

Meanwhile, European Community leaders meeting in Luxembourg decided to freeze millions of dollars of aid to Yugoslavia and dispatched a mediation mission to try to prevent the scattered fighting from escalating into civil war.

The foreign ministers of Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands left Friday afternoon for Belgrade, EC officials said.

Shaken but unbowed, President Milan Kucan of Slovenia said his government was "open for negotiations" with federal authorities but only "after this hor-

ror is ended on Slovene territory."

In Prague, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) were likely to hold a first crisis management session next week to discuss the conflict.

In Ljubljana, police said two jets pounded Brnik airport outside the city on Friday morning with bursts of cannon or machine-gun fire.

A hangar, two small aircraft of Slovenia's Air Adria carrier and two other buildings were destroyed. The runway and control tower were not hit and there were no reports of casualties.

Slovenian Interior Minister Igor Barcar said army planes had launched bombing attacks on columns of civilian cars at border crossings.

Strike

(Continued from page 1)

West Bank village to protest the killing of a 61-year-old Palestinian who was kidnapped and tortured as an accused collaborator, Arab reports said Friday.

The action by the three main factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the village of Arabeh was the latest protest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over killings by masked activists in the uprising.

In Arabeh, about 15 Palestinian youths marched to the village mosque Thursday night to protest the slaying of Adel Ahmad Saadat, 61, whose body was found with signs of torture and cigarette burns, Arab reporters said.

Eight masked activists from a group called the Black Panthers kidnapped Saadat from the village near Jenin earlier Thursday, the reporters said.

Bush: Iraq violated ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

under U.N. jurisdiction, and that's exactly what (Iraq) appears to have done," said Mr. Bush.

Referring to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, he said, "The man has no shame."

Under the terms of the April 3 ceasefire resolution adopted by the U.N., Iraq must disclose the sites of all its nuclear facilities, and chemical and biological weapons and permit inspection.

"What do you do about it... work through diplomacy?" asked Mr. Bush. "Don't press me beyond that. I am not prepared to say what we'll do" if the violation continues.

"Some would argue that the U.N. resolution gives... all means necessary" to enforce the ceasefire, he said.

The Bush administration, responding to allegations Iraq is hiding significant amounts of nuclear weapons, has ordered the Defense Department to draw up plans for military strikes on possi-

ble caches, the Los Angeles Times said Friday.

In a report from Washington quoting unidentified administration officials, the newspaper said concern over the reported Iraqi nuclear capability had reached feverish levels since early this month.

A "defecting" Iraqi nuclear scientist began giving details then of what he said were Iraqi efforts to conceal its undamaged nuclear stockpile, the newspaper said.

The "defector" was said to have described the elaborate shifting of nuclear materials, such as enriched uranium, so they would elude notice by U.N. inspectors.

Defense Department officials were quoted as saying the United States had two aircraft carriers, Nimitz and Forrestal, carrying more than 100 aircraft, within striking range of Iraq.

U.S. troops in the region have dwindled to 65,000 roughly 12 per cent of their peak presence during the recent war.

Witnesses of the Trebnje attack said air force jets opened fire on trucks halted by a roadblock after swooping low over the convoy.

The air attacks marked an escalation in federal military pressure on Slovenia, most westernized of Yugoslavia's republics and home to two million people.

The feud intensified despite a new call overnight for peace by the federal government which is facing the collapse of the Balkan federation of six republics and two provinces after 72 troubled years.

Western officials fear the conflict could degenerate into ethnic warring awakening old rivalries between the well-to-do Slovenes and Croats on the one hand and the country's majority Serbs.

Serbs account for more than eight million out of the 23 million population and dominate the army and government structure.

Survey shows exchange fees burn up holiday money of EC tourists

reverse is often the case. A German will save well over a tenth of his money if he waits until arriving on a Greek island before changing cash.

At London's Victoria station BEUC's study showed action was needed and said big companies such as Visa and Eurocard should explain the large differences in charges.

In some countries the corner shop will accept your card in payment for a book and a packet of cigarettes and in others you may be limited to cash conversion in banks and bigger stores.

But almost everywhere there are minimum commissions and conversion fees which the consumer is unaware of and would find hard to tally even if they were explained, says BEUC.

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian hitch-hiked across the European Community (EC) with 50,000 francs (\$1,400) in his pocket. He slept in the street, bought nothing — not even food — and still went home with only half of his money.

He was not robbed by thugs. All the money was taken in fees by banks and high-street exchange booths as he changed his cash to local currencies at each stop in the 12 EC countries.

The sum is a plausible one, based on facts exposed in a survey by the European consumer lobby BEUC, which says banks and money-changers make holidays and travel a "borderline rip-off" in the EC.

BEUC, which groups Europe's national consumer organisations, says the single EC market due to

be in place by the end of next year has yet to prove it has something to offer consumers.

Whether they use cash, travellers' cheques or credit-cards hidden rules and tricky exchange rates mean people pay dearly to change and spend money abroad and are left in the dark as to why.

The survey was requested by the European Commission in Brussels, which has been pressing the financial sector for more than two years to reduce costs and explain them more.

It shows an Italian visiting the tulip-fields of Amsterdam would do better to buy his guilders at home than change his lire at a bank in the Netherlands, where he will pay an average 6.4 per cent more.

For Germans and French, the

**YOU DON'T CHOOSE,
MAZERATI CHOOSES YOU**

MAZERATI

Call-606611, 660601 DIRANI - Shmeisani

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- * JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- * Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604142 Sweifieh tel: 823891

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN

CALL SOHA AT

Saudi Real Estate 687821/22

CROWN INT'L EST.

Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service Air Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090 Fax: 690852 P.O.Box 926487 Amman

FRESH PASTA TOP QUALITY MEAT FRESH SEA FOOD

At Leonardo Da Vinci Restaurant
Housing since 1977

SHMEISANI TEL. 602441-606281

HAVE FUN IN THE SUN

LAST DAY SPORTS CORNER
FOR ALL YOUR EXCLUSIVE BEACH NEEDS

KABARIT BRO'S CO.
HAMMAMAT TUNISIA STREET
TEL.912794 - FAX.612792
AOABA - JORDAN

AUSTRALIA INSURANCE SERVICES

A Unique Australian Experience in Jordan

All Types Of Insurance:

- AUTO'S
- HOUSE HOLD
- FIRE
- PERSONAL ACCIDENT
- MEDICAL
- LIFE
- TRAVEL COUPON
- ENGINEERING

Jabal Amman - First Circle Tel: 610948 Fax: 612948 Tlx: 27644 AUSTI JO.

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room....!

DAROTEL

الدار

Amman - Tel 668193 P.O. Box 3403 - Fax 602434

23888 DAROTEL JO

Ideal Residence For

Expatriates and

Businessmen

MOVING?

Let Aramex Air Cargo take care of the works, Door to Door.

Call the friendly professionals on 660507 or 660508

ARAMEX AIR CARGO

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND, RESERVATIONS

AMIN KAWAR & SONS TEL. 604676 604696 P.O.BOX 7806 AMMAN

Tel. 810605, 810609, Fax: 810520

RENT & SALE

Ricardo Real Estate

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdullah Real Estate

Tel. 669 457

PEKING RESTAURANT

Authentic Chinese Cuisine

Elegant colorful atmosphere

Meals 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30-Midnight

Tel. 630968

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

Ivanisevic forces into 2nd round

LONDON (R) — Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic pushed his country's current internal strife to the back of his mind Friday as he surged impressively into the second round at watery Wimbledon.

Ivanisevic, who has been receiving the latest news of the troubles in Slovenia from his sister in Split, beat Britain's Andrew Castle 7-6 7-6 6-2, setting a personal record of aces in the process.

The 10th seed blasted 25 first serves past the resigned Castle, eclipsing his performance against Boris Becker in last year's French Open fourth round, and pronounced himself a good bet to improve on his semifinal appearance at Wimbledon 12 months ago.

"It's not here to think about politics. I'm here to play my best tennis," said Ivanisevic, reassured by his 25-year-old sister Srdjana that the situation in Split at least — far away from the conflict in the north — was calm.

Sainz stretches lead over Finn in N. Zealand Rally

ROTORUA, New Zealand (R) — Spain's Carlos Sainz gradually pulled away from second placed Juha Kankkunen of Finland during a long, hard second day in the World Championship New Zealand Rally Friday.

The Toyota driver stretched his lead over Kankkunen, his closest rival in the World Championship, to 40 seconds on a driving day lasting more than 15 hours.

"We were going flat out," Sainz said after setting fastest time in five of the day's 12 special stages. "I really could not have gone much faster."

But the quickest man for much of the day was France's Didier Auriol, a team mate of Kankkunen at Lancia.

He started the day in third, one minute 27 seconds behind Sainz after a spin and two mechanical problems Thursday.

Auriol recorded fastest times in six of the stages and at one point

"It's okay. Everything is quiet. Apparently it's hot and nice and they're swimming every day."

For the fifth successive day, it was anything but hot and nice at Wimbledon. Just 95 minutes play was possible before more rain arrived, briefly interrupting two intriguing matches involving Americans Andre Agassi and Jimmy Connors.

Agassi was 6-5 down to Canadian Grant Connell in the third set of their match on centre court with only 29 minutes play possible in their delayed first round encounter.

Fifth seed Agassi, still dressed in pure white, dropped the set in a tie-break after the resumption.

Connors was looking in good order against Finland's Veli Palohimo and was leading 6-2 4-0 when play was halted for 25 minutes. He quickly wrapped up the second set 6-0 after the break.

Court one had dried out appreciably from the previous evening, to the delight of the



Goran Ivanisevic

previous incumbent Ivanisevic, 7-6 5-5 ahead overnight, who had complained to the assistant referee about conditions.

"I told the supervisor it was dangerous but he did not agree. For them it was okay, for me it was not okay."

Johnson is no sure bet for Canada's Tokyo team

TORONTO (R) — Ben Johnson is hoping to regain some lost glory at August's World Athletics Championships but he may run out of time in his bid to qualify for the competition.

Johnson has yet to secure a spot in Canada's team for the Tokyo event and needs to post a time of 10.30 seconds or better in 100 metres competition to clinch third place.

Mariku Aien of Finland held fourth all day, a brush with a bank earning his Subaru scars to match those on Sainz's and Auriol's cars.

Friday's weather was mainly fine and the gravel roads — some of them very tight and slow — were in better condition than the muddy route on the rainy Thursday.

Ross Meekings of New Zealand took over the lead in the Group N production car class with his Toyota.

The rally, seventh round of the World Drivers' Championship but not part of the manufacturers' series, finishes Sunday.

"I think he's going to run out of time."

Canada can send three 100-metre runners to Tokyo, but Smith said Canadian sprinters Bruny Surin and Atlee Mahorn have virtually assured themselves berths.

"There's really only one spot left," he said. "Right now it's mine."

Ironically, Brian Morrison has done Johnson a favour by removing him from contention after receiving a two-year ban earlier this month when he failed a random drug test. Morrison tested positive for Stanazolol, the same steroid which proved Johnson's undoing.

But two other Canadians — Glenroy Gilbert and Brad McCuaig — are expected to mount strong challenges to Johnson for a world team berth.

Various theories on Johnson's slow times are being heard.

Some say Johnson is simply posting times that more accurately reflects his drug-free ability.

And, they note, that Johnson turns 30 in December.

Others cite the fact Johnson had no coach during his two-year suspension. Since he has been back he has had two different coaches.

Johnson's past success as a sprinter — aided by eight years of steroid use — and current struggles appear to offer strong proof that steroids do indeed work.

Dr. Andrew Pipe, chairman of the newly-formed Canadian Anti-Doping Organisation, agreed the cessation of steroid use unquestionably results in diminished performance.

"There is good evidence in the (medical) literature that one becomes dependent on anabolic steroids so there are differences encountered when an athlete stops using them," Pipe said.

If the pair reproduce their form

it could be a classic to savour.

Generous finished only fourth

in the English 2,000 guineas raced

over a mile (1.6 km) at Newmarket.

But over the 12 furlongs (2.1 km) at Epsom he proved twice

the performer, going clear of

Marji with third-placed Star Of

Gdansk another seven lengths

away.

Marji underlined the value of

the form when winning at Royal

Ascot last week and Generous

has a bright chance.

The colt will not travel until the

days of the Minstrel, Nijinsky

and Sir Ivor.

The colt has won all his three

races to date but Sunday repre-

sents a far sterner task.

Star Of Gdansk (10-1) ran on

well at Epsom but it is hard to see

him and jockey Christy Roche

making up the 12 lengths which

separated them and Generous in

the English Derby, despite the

presence of their own pacemaker,

500-1 shot Nordie Admirer.

Whatever the fate of Barry's

run — said, incidentally, to have

sparked in a gallop at home

Monday — Conner will not leave the

Curragh empty-handed.

Prize money goes to the first six

home with the last placed picking

up about \$15,000.

The colt will not travel until the

days of the Minstrel, Nijinsky

and Sir Ivor.

The colt has won all his three

races to date but Sunday repre-

sents a far sterner task.

Star Of Gdansk (10-1) ran on

well at Epsom but it is hard to see

him and jockey Christy Roche

making up the 12 lengths which

separated them and Generous in

the English Derby, despite the

presence of their own pacemaker,

500-1 shot Nordie Admirer.

Whatever the fate of Barry's

run — said, incidentally, to have

sparked in a gallop at home

Monday — Conner will not leave the

Curragh empty-handed.

Prize money goes to the first six

home with the last placed picking

up about \$15,000.

The colt will not travel until the

days of the Minstrel, Nijinsky

and Sir Ivor.

The colt has won all his three

races to date but Sunday repre-

sents a far sterner task.

Star Of Gdansk (10-1) ran on

well at Epsom but it is hard to see

him and jockey Christy Roche

making up the 12 lengths which

separated them and Generous in

the English Derby, despite the

presence of their own pacemaker,

500-1 shot Nordie Admirer.

Whatever the fate of Barry's

run — said, incidentally, to have

sparked in a gallop at home

Monday — Conner will not leave the

Curragh empty-handed.

Prize money goes to the first six

home with the last placed picking

up about \$15,000.

The colt will not travel until the

days of the Minstrel, Nijinsky

and Sir Ivor.

The colt has won all his three

races to date but Sunday repre-

sents a far sterner task.

Star Of Gdansk (10-1) ran on

well at Epsom but it is hard to see

him and jockey Christy Roche

making up the 12 lengths which

separated them and Generous in

the English Derby, despite the

presence of their own pacemaker,

500-1 shot Nordie Admirer.

Whatever the fate of Barry's

run — said, incidentally, to have

sparked in a gallop at home

Monday — Conner will not leave the

Curragh empty-handed.

Prize money goes to the first six

home with the last placed picking

up about \$15,000.

The colt will not travel until the

days of the Minstrel, Nijinsky

and Sir Ivor.

The colt has won all his three

races to date but Sunday repre-

sents a far sterner task.

Star Of Gdansk (10-1) ran on

well at Epsom but it is hard to see

him and jockey Christy Roche

making up the 12 lengths which

separated them and Generous in

the English Derby, despite the

presence of their own pacemaker,

500-1 shot Nordie Admirer.

Whatever the fate of Barry's

run — said, incidentally, to have

sparked in a gallop at home

Monday — Conner will not leave the

مكتبة الأصل

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1991 7

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
		In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
Sterling Pound	1.5855	1.5855	1.5855		
Deutsche Mark	1.7875	1.7875	1.7875		
Swiss Franc	1.9474	1.9474	1.9474		
French Franc	6.0540	6.0540	6.0540		
Japanese Yen	155.43	155.43	155.43		
European Currency Unit	1.1465	1.1465	1.1465		
USD per STD.					
1 British Pound = 1.5855 U.S. Dollars					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.00	5.10	5.20		
Sterling Pound	11.25	11.25	11.25		
Deutsche Mark	4.50	4.50	4.50		
Swiss Franc	7.25	7.25	7.25		
French Franc	9.25	9.25	9.25		
Japanese Yen	7.50	7.50	7.50		
European Currency Unit	4.80	4.80	4.80		
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 million U.S. dollars or equivalent					
Precious Metals					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD Oz	JD Gm
Gold	360.35	6.90	Silver	4.50	.10
24 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Date: 27 - 6 - 1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.286	.285			
Sterling Pound	1.1207	1.1265			
Deutsche Mark	.3831	.3850			
Swiss Franc	.4423	.4445			
French Franc	.1125	.1134			
Japanese Yen*	.4954	.4973			
Dutch Guilder	.5349	.5416			
Swedish Krona	.1058	.1063			
Italian Lira*	.0514	.0517			
Belgian Franc	.01865	.01874			
Per 100					
Other Currencies					
Date: 27 - 6 - 1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7400	1.8200			
Lebanese Lira*	.0750	.0760			
Saudi Riyal	.1824	.1834			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1852	.1861			
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2100			
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700			
UAE Dirham	.1852	.1861			
Greek Drachma*	.3560	.3680			
Cypriot Pound	1.3900	1.4200			
* Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	19/6/1991 Close	26/6/1991 Close			
All-Share	112.65	112.95			
Banking Sector	108.12	108.03			
Insurance Sector	116.31	117.22			
Industry Sector	116.90	117.76			
Services Sector	130.96	131.36			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.6200/10	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1415/20	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.8140/50	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	2.0400/10	French francs	Italian lire
	1.5603/10	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	37.33/37	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	6.1400/50	U.S. dollars	
	1350/1351		
	138.10/11		
	6.5510/60		
	7.0750/0800		
	7.0100/50		
	367.00/367.50		

One ounce of gold

367.00/367.50 U.S. dollars

December 31, 1990 = 100

London Exchange Rates

London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling 1.6200/10 U.S. dollar Canadian dollar

One U.S. dollar 1.1415/20 Deutschmarks Dutch guilders

1.8140/50 Swiss francs Belgian francs

2.0400/10 French francs Italian lire

1.5603/10 Japanese yen Swedish crowns

37.33/37 Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

6.1400/50 U.S. dollars

1350/1351

138.10/11

6.5510/60

7.0750/0800

7.0100/50

367.00/367.50

One ounce of gold

367.00/367.50 U.S. dollars

December 31, 1990 = 100

London Exchange Rates

London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling 1.6200/10 U.S. dollar Canadian dollar

One U.S. dollar 1.1415/20 Deutschmarks Dutch guilders

1.8140/50 Swiss francs Belgian francs

2.0400/10 French francs Italian lire

1.5603/10 Japanese yen Swedish crowns

37.33/37 Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

6.1400/50 U.S. dollars

1350/1351

138.10/11

6.5510/60

7.0750/0800

7.0100/50

367.00/367.50

One ounce of gold

367.00/367.50 U.S. dollars

December 31, 1990 = 100

London Exchange Rates

London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling 1.6200/10 U.S. dollar Canadian dollar

One U.S. dollar 1.1415/20 Deutschmarks Dutch guilders

1.8140/50 Swiss francs Belgian francs

2.0400/10 French francs Italian lire

1.5603/10 Japanese yen Swedish crowns

37.33/37 Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

6.1400/50 U.S. dollars

1350/1351

138.10/11

6.5510/60

7.0750/0800

7.0100/50

367.00/367.50

One ounce of gold

367.00/367.50 U.S. dollars

December 31, 1990 = 100

London Exchange Rates

London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling 1.6200/10 U.S. dollar Canadian dollar

One U.S. dollar 1.1415/20 Deutschmarks Dutch guilders

1.8140/50 Swiss francs Belgian francs

2.0400/10 French francs Italian lire

1.5603/10 Japanese yen Swedish crowns

37.33/37 Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

6.1400/50 U.S. dollars

1350/1351

138.10/11

6.5510/60

7.0750/0800

7.0100/50

367.00/367.50

One ounce of gold

367.00/367.50 U.S. dollars

December 31, 1990 = 100

London Exchange Rates

London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling 1.6200/10 U.S. dollar Canadian dollar

One U.S. dollar 1.1415/20 Deutschmarks Dutch guilders

1.8140/50 Swiss francs Belgian francs

2.0400/10 French francs Italian lire

1.5603/10 Japanese yen Swedish crowns

37.33/37 Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

6.1400/50 U.S. dollars

1350/1351

138.10/11

6.5510/60

7.0750/0800

7.0100/50

367.00/367.50

One ounce of gold

367.00/367.50 U.S. dollars

December 31, 1990 = 100

London Exchange Rates

London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling 1.

Communist revolt against Gorbachev sweeps Siberia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Hardline Communist chiefs in major Siberian cities and regions were reported Friday to have launched a drive clearly aimed at forcing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to resign as head of the party.

The radical newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* and the official TASS news agency quoted statements from once all-powerful organisations denouncing what they called "a slide to capitalism" under the current party leadership.

"The actions of the political and state leadership of our country have in recent times taken on an even more anti-people character," said a joint declaration by 11 party first secretaries cited by *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*.

And TASS said the Communist organisations of the major industrial centre of Novosibirsk had called for an emergency congress of the Soviet Communist Party to discuss the situation created by the "inconsistency" of its top leaders.

"The course of a radical renewal of socialism has been replaced with an increasing slide into capitalism," said the Novosibirsk statement, which also criticised chiefs of the conservative-dominated Russian Communist Party for "weakness."

"Destructive processes are mounting in the country and total chaos in the economy and the collapse of statehood cannot be ruled out," declared the statement, issued after a joint meeting of the Novosibirsk city and regional party bodies.

The joint declaration reported by *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* was signed by the first secretaries of the Buryat and Tuvin republics, of the Altai and Krasnoyarsk regions, and of Irkutsk, Kemerovo, Omsk, Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Tyumen and Chita.

These represent party organisations across vast tracts of western and central Siberia where party organisations for decades held total sway over exploitation of huge natural resources ranging from oil to timber.

In their declaration, among the

toughest yet seen from an organised group of top-level opponents of Gorbachev's reforms, the *Siberian Communist* chiefs said there had been a sharp swing away from officially-approved party policy by Moscow.

The leadership of the party and the country is being carried out by a narrow group of people who are ignoring the constitution and the laws of the USSR," said the declaration, the full text of which has not been published in Moscow.

"A black beret commander told Lithuanian officials his men were sent to confiscate illegal weapons believed stored by pro-independence activists. He said he was acting under orders of Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo and the Kremlin-appointed prosecutor in the republic.

The troops claimed to find weapons in the building, then left without incident. There were no injuries.

"The president was immediately informed about the events. He ... urgently instructed (Pugo) to investigate the matter," spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko told the news agency Interfax.

Pugo, a former Latvian KGB chief considered a hardliner, denied to Lithuanian officials Wednesday that he ordered the attack. A Lithuanian representative in Moscow said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Andrei Chernenko confirmed at a briefing Thursday that Pugo did not know about the raid in advance.

"If he had to order every case of arms confiscation, he would have drowned in a sea of information. This would have impaired the promptness and effectiveness of militia actions," Chernenko told reporters, according to the Soviet news agency TASS.

Lithuanian officials branded the raid a "rehearsal" for overthrow of the Lithuanian government, which declared independence last year.

His move followed bitter criticism of his stewardship of the organisation from individual speakers, several of whom also charged that his backing for a market economy meant a return to capitalism. But his offer was not taken up.

Probe of 'black berets'

In a separate development, Gorbachev Thursday ordered his interior minister to investigate an attack by Soviet "black beret" troops on Lithuania's central telephone building, his spokesman said, according to Interfax.

Germany freezes accounts of reform Communists in probe

BERLIN (R) — Germany has frozen all bank accounts of the reform Communist Party in an inquiry into multi-billion dollar assets inherited from its Stalinist predecessor, party officials said Friday.

Officials quoted by the party newspaper *Neues Deutschland* said the Treuhand government agency, which is privatising former east Germany's economy, had blocked all accounts of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS).

"This new Treuhand step effectively plunges a left-wing opposition party into a state of emergency," said a PDS executive statement quoted by the newspaper.

Treuhand officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

PDS leaders Gregor Gysi said the Treuhand action amounted to virtual expropriation of a movement already sapped by the corrupt, repressive legacy of its predecessor, the Socialist Unity Party (SED), which ruled east Germany in October.

An investigative commission had previously curbed PDS financial and property transactions exceeding 10,000 marks (\$3,550) in a complicated, long-running inquiry into the origin of the vast SED wealth.

The PDS has persistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

The PDS has consistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

"This is virtually the end of a political party, since now everything from petrol bills to purchases of writing paper and a newspaper advertisement cannot be done without approval of the government," he told the *Sachsenische Zeitung* newspaper.

Treuhand said Tuesday it would take direct control of the PDS real estate empire — 768

1 killed in rearmed contra attack on Nicaraguan police

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (R) — President Violeta Chamorro has called for all Nicaraguans to give up their arms after contra rebels attacked a police station on the anniversary of the end of Nicaragua's eight-year civil war.

One civilian was killed and two wounded in the attack, a senior army official and radio reports said.

About 40 rearmed contras attacked the police station in the northern town of Quilalí early Thursday, a senior army source said. It was not immediately clear if the victims were killed by contra or police fire.

"The contras tried to spoil the anniversary of the end of the war," said the army source, who asked not to be further identified. "It was an act of propaganda by a minority group."

He had no more details of the attack at Quilalí, about 250 kilometres northeast of Managua. Radio reports said the rebels fired on the police station

about 45 members of the Omon Force stormed the building in the secessionist republic Wednesday afternoon, evicted its employees and cut off telephone and telegraph service across Lithuania for about two hours.

A black beret commander told Lithuanian officials his men were sent to confiscate illegal weapons believed stored by pro-independence activists. He said he was acting under orders of Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo and the Kremlin-appointed prosecutor in the republic.

The troops claimed to find weapons in the building, then left without incident. There were no injuries.

"The president was immediately informed about the events. He ... urgently instructed (Pugo) to investigate the matter," spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko told the news agency Interfax.

Pugo, a former Latvian KGB chief considered a hardliner, denied to Lithuanian officials Wednesday that he ordered the attack. A Lithuanian representative in Moscow said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Andrei Chernenko confirmed at a briefing Thursday that Pugo did not know about the raid in advance.

"If he had to order every case of arms confiscation, he would have drowned in a sea of information. This would have impaired the promptness and effectiveness of militia actions," Chernenko told reporters, according to the Soviet news agency TASS.

Lithuanian officials branded the raid a "rehearsal" for overthrow of the Lithuanian government, which declared independence last year.

His move followed bitter criticism of his stewardship of the organisation from individual speakers, several of whom also charged that his backing for a market economy meant a return to capitalism. But his offer was not taken up.

Probe of 'black berets'

In a separate development, Gorbachev Thursday ordered his interior minister to investigate an attack by Soviet "black beret" troops on Lithuania's central telephone building, his spokesman said, according to Interfax.

Dane among 14 killed in Sri Lankan bus attack

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas massacred 14 bus passengers, including a Danish national, in eastern Sri Lanka, military sources said Friday.

They said the rebels detonated a landmine under the bus Thursday night at Lahugala in eastern Amparai district, opened fire at the passengers and set the vehicle ablaze.

Ten bodies charred beyond recognition were found in the vehicle.

The four were apparently shot when they tried to run away, the sources said.

Eight passengers were injured and taken to hospital. Eleven managed to run into the nearby jungle and escape.

The PDS had previously curbed PDS financial and property transactions exceeding 10,000 marks (\$3,550) in a complicated, long-running inquiry into the origin of the vast SED wealth.

The PDS has persistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

The PDS has consistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

"This is virtually the end of a political party, since now everything from petrol bills to purchases of writing paper and a newspaper advertisement cannot be done without approval of the government," he told the *Sachsenische Zeitung* newspaper.

Treuhand said Tuesday it would take direct control of the PDS real estate empire — 768

buildings or sites — to secure accumulated funds against possible laundering. PDS spokesmen denied wrongdoing and vowed a court fight.

A popular uprising toppled SED rule in late 1989, forcing the party into hurried democratic reform and a name change. It was trounced in free elections and the conservative victors steered east Germany to union with west Germany in October.

They said the rebels detonated a landmine under the bus Thursday night at Lahugala in eastern Amparai district, opened fire at the passengers and set the vehicle ablaze.

Ten bodies charred beyond recognition were found in the vehicle.

The four were apparently shot when they tried to run away, the sources said.

Eight passengers were injured and taken to hospital. Eleven managed to run into the nearby jungle and escape.

The PDS had previously curbed PDS financial and property transactions exceeding 10,000 marks (\$3,550) in a complicated, long-running inquiry into the origin of the vast SED wealth.

The PDS has persistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

The PDS has consistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

"This is virtually the end of a political party, since now everything from petrol bills to purchases of writing paper and a newspaper advertisement cannot be done without approval of the government," he told the *Sachsenische Zeitung* newspaper.

Treuhand said Tuesday it would take direct control of the PDS real estate empire — 768

buildings or sites — to secure accumulated funds against possible laundering. PDS spokesmen denied wrongdoing and vowed a court fight.

A popular uprising toppled SED rule in late 1989, forcing the party into hurried democratic reform and a name change. It was trounced in free elections and the conservative victors steered east Germany to union with west Germany in October.

Ten bodies charred beyond recognition were found in the vehicle.

The four were apparently shot when they tried to run away, the sources said.

Eight passengers were injured and taken to hospital. Eleven managed to run into the nearby jungle and escape.

The PDS had previously curbed PDS financial and property transactions exceeding 10,000 marks (\$3,550) in a complicated, long-running inquiry into the origin of the vast SED wealth.

The PDS has persistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

The PDS has consistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

"This is virtually the end of a political party, since now everything from petrol bills to purchases of writing paper and a newspaper advertisement cannot be done without approval of the government," he told the *Sachsenische Zeitung* newspaper.

Treuhand said Tuesday it would take direct control of the PDS real estate empire — 768

buildings or sites — to secure accumulated funds against possible laundering. PDS spokesmen denied wrongdoing and vowed a court fight.

A popular uprising toppled SED rule in late 1989, forcing the party into hurried democratic reform and a name change. It was trounced in free elections and the conservative victors steered east Germany to union with west Germany in October.

Ten bodies charred beyond recognition were found in the vehicle.

The four were apparently shot when they tried to run away, the sources said.

Eight passengers were injured and taken to hospital. Eleven managed to run into the nearby jungle and escape.

The PDS had previously curbed PDS financial and property transactions exceeding 10,000 marks (\$3,550) in a complicated, long-running inquiry into the origin of the vast SED wealth.

The PDS has persistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

The PDS has consistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

"This is virtually the end of a political party, since now everything from petrol bills to purchases of writing paper and a newspaper advertisement cannot be done without approval of the government," he told the *Sachsenische Zeitung* newspaper.

Treuhand said Tuesday it would take direct control of the PDS real estate empire — 768

buildings or sites — to secure accumulated funds against possible laundering. PDS spokesmen denied wrongdoing and vowed a court fight.

A popular uprising toppled SED rule in late 1989, forcing the party into hurried democratic reform and a name change. It was trounced in free elections and the conservative victors steered east Germany to union with west Germany in October.

Ten bodies charred beyond recognition were found in the vehicle.

The four were apparently shot when they tried to run away, the sources said.

Eight passengers were injured and taken to hospital. Eleven managed to run into the nearby jungle and escape.

The PDS had previously curbed PDS financial and property transactions exceeding 10,000 marks (\$3,550) in a complicated, long-running inquiry into the origin of the vast SED wealth.

The PDS has persistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

The PDS has consistently denied accusations of having laundered ill-gotten funds through front companies.

It said early this year it wanted to divest 80 per cent of the myriad assets which made it Europe's richest party and keep the rest for normal political work.

"This is virtually the end of a political party, since now everything from petrol bills to purchases of writing paper and a newspaper advertisement cannot be done without approval of the government," he told the *Sachsenische Zeitung* newspaper.

Treuhand said Tuesday it would take direct control of the PDS real estate empire — 768

buildings or sites — to secure accumulated funds against possible laundering. PDS spokesmen denied wrongdoing and vowed a court fight.

A popular uprising toppled SED rule in late 1989, forcing the party into hurried democratic reform and a name change. It was trounced in free elections and the conservative victors steered east Germany to union with west Germany in October.

Ten bodies charred beyond recognition were found in the vehicle.

The four were apparently shot when they tried to run away, the sources said.